

Rockafellows Mill dam site & 12 acres preserved for wildlife and watershed protection.

The second major mill site on the South Branch of the Raritan River in Readington Township has been permanently preserved as open space. The township completed the acquisition of the Rockafellows Mill property comprising four parcels of land – two in Readington, totaling 12 acres, and two in Raritan Township, totaling 4 acres – with the intent to preserve these parcels in their natural state for wildlife and watershed protection.



Aerial view of a section of the preserved parcels with wetland pools.

This preservation effort advances the goal of protecting the strategic Hunterdon County greenway corridor and is the result of a partnership with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF), Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT), Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA), Hunterdon County, and Readington and Raritan Townships.

These parcels are adjacent to the South Branch Wildlife Management Area and help preserve a larger contiguous natural area west of Three Bridges village. The parcels also will contribute to stream restoration and the overall protection of the South Branch of the Raritan River. Readington’s Open Space Advisory Board, Readington’s WaterWatch and Hunterdon County have all made preservation of the South Branch of the Raritan River a priority and are working to protect land in Hunterdon County along this river while continuing to protect streams, wetlands and improve water quality.



View of the parcels (blue) , State Wildlife Management Area (green) with the nearby dam and bridge.

Most of the acquisition funding was provided by the three environmental partners, using Green Acres funds, with a 50 percent matching contribution from Hunterdon County. Both Readington and Raritan townships contributed open space funds.



View of the South Branch from Rockafellows Mill bridge with the preserved parcels on both riverbanks.



View of the Rockafellows Mill Road Bridge over the South Branch of the Raritan River.

In the future, Readington Township will partner with state and federal stakeholders to assess long-term plans and future stream restoration projects. Key stakeholders who provided technical advice and funding support for this preservation effort include:

- New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- Raritan Headwaters Association
- Hunterdon Land Trust
- Readington Township
- Raritan Township
- Hunterdon County
- New Jersey Green Acres
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency
- State of New Jersey Fish & Wildlife

Juergen Huelsebusch, Mayor, Readington Township & Chair, Open Space Advisory Board